

Carlsville has big role in Door Co.

Community has long been part of tourism trade

By Gary Dodge

Press-Gazette

CARLSVILLE — In at least one Door County community, the Carls have it.

"Carlsville got its name from all the Carlses around here," said Donald Krueger, town of Egg Harbor treasurer for 45 years.

The more than 100-year-old community was named not for a family, but for several men whose first names were Carl, said Krueger, 77.

Press-Gazette photos
by Joan Gutheridge

At one time, it was going to be named after

a tavern.

Carlsville, which Krueger and long-time resident Fritz Kihneau, 70, estimate has 200 to 250 residents, is 8 miles north of Sturgeon Bay on State Highway 42.

The community has long been a part of the tourism industry in Door County, Krueger and Kihneau said.

Carlsville is visited by hundreds of tourists each year. Bus loads tour the Door Peninsula Winery, which is housed in a former schoolhouse.

Many people stay at the member-only Harbour Village Vacation Resort, said William Anschutz, a maintenance worker at the resort.

Anschutz, who once owned the resort and a tavern, found a close-knit community when he moved here in 1964.

It didn't take him long before he became part of Carlsville's fabric. He is one of five volunteer emergency medical technicians.

"We know all the old people in the community. They're more like family," he said.

The people in Carlsville are woven together much like a family and residents help those in need, Anschutz, 50, said.

"This is a hard-working community. All the people are hard workers," he said.

When Kihneau and Krueger were young, families were much larger and more people lived in Carlsville.

Years ago, residents gathered at school picnics, at baseball games and at a large dance hall, said Doris Kihneau, 65.



Not Carls: Donald Krueger, left, and Fritz Kihneau, both of Carlsville, discuss the community's history at Kihneau's home. Krueger says Carlsville got its name because of several Carls who once lived there. Carlsville is in Door County just north of Sturgeon Bay.

"Carlsville got its name from all the Carlses around here."

— Donald Krueger, town of Egg Harbor treasurer

Today, the only community gathering is a fish boil put on by local snowmobilers, Fritz Kihneau said.

But Carlsville still maintains an important role in the town of Egg Harbor and in Door County, residents say.

It will be home to a new town of Egg Harbor town hall and to a seven to 10 member volunteer fire department on County Highway I. Businesses in Carlsville include a carpet shop, tavern and restaurant, gift shop, and a pick-your-own fruit stand.

A new mobile home court has brought

in about 100 people, Krueger and Kihneau said.

Many families make a living by operating farms and fruit orchards, they said.

The school bell rings every time tours are conducted at the winery, said Krueger.

Doris Kihneau, who attended classes at the site of the former first-through eighth-grade school built in 1868, remembers students hauling water to the school.

It closed in 1963 when the school joined the Sevastopol School District. The winery was built in 1974.

About 40 children attended classes at the two-room schoolhouse. Two teachers split teaching grades one through four and grades five through eight, she said.

Krueger's four children graduated from the school. One of the Kihneaus' four children attended classes there.

Many tourists stop at the winery to look at the old schoolhouse and to sample a variety of wines, said Jim Bowers, 30, manager.

Cherry wine is the most popular among samplers, he said. About nine tour guides are hired in the summer.

About 40,000 people toured the plant from May to October last year, Bowers said.

■ **Next week:** Little Suamico in Oconto County

People & Places



The Carlsville file

- ☐ **Population:** 200 to 250, estimated by residents Donald Krueger and Fritz Kihneau.
- ☐ **Attractions:** The Door Peninsula Winery, Harbour Village Recreation Resort and pick-your-own fruit orchards.
- ☐ **Education:** Children attend the Sevastopol School District.
- ☐ **Government:** Part of the town of Egg Harbor, and home to a new town hall and volunteer fire department building.



Toast of the town: The Door Peninsula Winery was a two-room

schoolhouse from 1868 until 1963. It became a winery in 1974.



Resort town: William Anschutz works at a Carlsville resort.